

Raftsmen's Journal.



BY SAMUEL J. ROW.

CLEARFIELD, PA., MAY 15, 1861.

MARYLAND.—Within the last week, this State changed her position, and is now apparently loyal—her authorities having consented that the United States troops should pass through Baltimore unmolested. Accordingly, on last Thursday Sherman's Battery, composed of twelve pieces of cannon and some three hundred men, followed by two regiments of infantry, passed through that city without opposition. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold set in pictures of silver." Such was that little word, "Our troops shall come through Baltimore," uttered by Mr. Lincoln. It was a word just in time, and just in place; but for which Maryland, to-day, had been with South Carolina, in open rebellion. The concentrating of a Federal army on her soil, and her chief city in danger of being destroyed, was an argument not to be resisted; and fifty thousand bayonets with strong arms to use them, will wonderfully affect the moral apprehensions of the Old Dominion. She is already beginning to pity us, and to feel sorry that she may be compelled to meet our forces. Fifty thousand more men in the field, with another brief sentence from our noble President, may yet induce her to change front, and conclude that to remain in the Union will be the best for all. Then this argument will be carried to the door of South Carolina, where it will unquestionably be as effective as it has been in preceding cases. In short, a compromise is not the argument for a people who have no good faith or honor to keep it. Traitors and robbers will be traitors and robbers, and we are greatly mistaken, if the President does not so treat them. He has thus far done well. He is cautious, but determined when necessary. We think he will take care of the government and attend to those who are now in open rebellion against it.

THE UNION FEELING.—"A vigorous war," is the unanimous cry of the Union men, and the Union press all over the country. The real Union men of Charleston, Montgomery, New Orleans, Memphis, Baltimore, Richmond—every city and every section of the South—are just as anxious to see the Secessionists put down as those of the North. It is felt everywhere in the South that Secession rule is the rule of an oligarchy—of a few scoundrels—backed by fraud, swindling, and the force of military power. They pray that the Government may not stop till it puts down the rebellion.

"If they come as the thief comes, in the darkness, and stillness, and peaceful hours of the night, they may succeed in despoiling us of our property." "Such an enterprise will be undertaken at their peril."—Clearfield Rep. The above is strong but mysterious language to use in reference to "an intelligent, loyal, law-abiding people;" whom, the Republican reports to be still in our midst. We wonder who will "volunteer" to "swear point blank" to that report? We cannot. But, who "professes to know the sentiments of the citizenry?" Who "claims to know their feelings, wishes, intentions and speech?"

THE ARMY AND NAVY.—The troops called out by the new Army and Navy orders are, it is said, in addition to the seventy-five thousand volunteers already required, so that the whole number called out by the Government thus far is: Volunteers by proclamation, 75,000; Volunteers for three years' service, 40,000; Regulars for five years' service, 25,000; Seamen for five years' service, 18,000; Total, 158,000. That is 75,000 week before last, and 85,000 now. Several of the States have enrolled double the number of regiments asked for.

CAMBERG COUNTY AHEAD!—The Harrisburg Telegraph of the 7th, says: "Col. Peiper, of Cambria county comes forward with a regiment, offering the State a thousand dollars bonus if he and his gallant companions are allowed to draw their swords and pull their triggers in defence of the Union." Who will dare to assert after such devotion, that the people of the North are cowards? What a contrast this is to the rebel custom of forcing aliens, neutrals, and negroes into their ranks.

WHAT IT COSTS.—An exchange says, that to arm, equip, and provide a well appointed force of one hundred thousand men, including camp equipage, artillery, horses, munitions, &c., and two months' provisions, will cost twenty-five millions of dollars; and for five hundred thousand men is one hundred and twenty-five millions. For six months' service, including transportation, this sum must be doubled.

VOLUNTEERS.—We see it stated that, including the Home Guards, there are not less than five hundred thousand men enrolled in the free States, ready for service at a moment's warning from the government. This is an army more numerous than there are free white men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five in all the seceded slave States.

"We will volunteer as witnesses in his defence, and swear point blank that his (our) assertion is not true."—Clearfield Republican. Thank you. We believe, however, that "volunteer" witnesses, who are so anxious to swear, are looked upon with much suspicion; and, therefore, decline the offer. But, we need his testimony we will send him word.

GEN. BUTLER'S ORDERS.—Gen. Butler, in a special brigade order, makes the following allusion to the arrest of Spencer: "The General has this opportunity publicly, as he has done privately, to thank Lieutenants Fox and Shelley, of the Eight Regiment, for their coolness, promptitude and zeal, in arresting one Spencer, who was uttering in the presence of the troops at the Relay House, atrocious sentiments, declaring that "we," meaning himself and brother rebels, "acted rightly toward the Massachusetts troops three weeks ago last Friday;" and saying that the murderous mob who killed our friends there were right in the action, and that the same men were preparing to give us a warm reception on our return. "For these treasonable speeches, substantially admitted by him in his written examination, Spencer has been arrested and sent to Annapolis where he will be properly dealt with."

The other matter to which the General desires to call the attention of the troops is this: "Wishing to establish the most friendly relations between you and the neighborhood, the General has invited all vendors of provisions to visit our camp, and replenish our somewhat scanty commissariat. But, to his disgust and horror, he finds well authenticated evidence that a private in the 6th Regiment has been poisoned by means of strychnine administered in food, brought into camp by one of these peddlers. I am happy to be informed that the man is now out of danger. This act, of course, will render it necessary for me to cut off all purchases from unauthorized persons. Are not few insane enemies and spies the lot of different powers, and are not the same things done in this manner? Do they know the terrible lessons of warfare they are teaching us? Can it be that they do not realize the fact that we can put an agent, with a sword, in every household, armed with the terrible weapon? In view of the terrible consequences of this mode of warfare, if it were adopted by us from their teachings, may we not, with every sentiment of devotional prayer, exclaim, 'Father, forgive them; they know not what they do.' Certain it is that any other such attempt, reasonably authenticated as to the person committing it, will be followed by the swiftest, surest, and most condign punishment."

EUROPEAN WARS.—By the latest news from Europe, we learn that the "Old World" also appears to be in warlike commotion. Great preparations are making to increase the armies and navies of the different powers, and fears are entertained that a general European war is at hand. In a recent communication to the Boston Commercial Bulletin, Donald McKay states that the Emperor of France has ordered ten new iron-clad frigates like La Gloire to be constructed as soon as possible. In England the Warrior and the Black Prince—the two largest mail-clad frigates ever designed—are in a forward state; and the two others—the Defense and the Resistance—are progressing rapidly. Austria has just commenced the construction of two such frigates, and Russia, four. Mr. McKay states that during his visits to the French and English navyyards, last summer, he had frequent opportunities of examining the construction of iron-cased steam frigates, and he assisted in several experiments to test the resisting power of armor plates. In view of this personal experience, he says: "I do not hesitate to risk my reputation as a mechanic of some experience in stating that no ships constructed on the old system are capable of sustaining a fifteen minutes' fight with one of these invulnerable monsters, without being blown up." He believes that Pennsylvania iron is of a very superior quality for making ship armor, and that we ought to have at least six of such iron-cased frigates, carrying 36 guns each. The Warrior and the Black Prince are to have very powerful engines, so as to give them a speed that will surpass that of any war vessel afloat. The London Engineer states that each frigate will have engines of the nominal power of 1,260 horses, but an actual power of 6,000 horses. The engines have cylinders of 112 inches diameter, the largest ever made for steamers. The stroke is 4 feet; number of revolutions per minute, 50; making the speed of piston, 400 feet per minute.

ARMY BEVERAGES.—It has been discovered by experience, that soldiers on field and camp duty require some cheering beverage, and since it has been ascertained that alcoholic beverages are injurious, the question arises "What can be substituted for them?" We have very useful and practical information on this head from Colonel Dawes, an experienced Indian officer. He recommends that coffee and tea should take the place of liquors, and that provisions should be taken in each company, and every man should have some offered to him, the first thing in the morning before doing duty, and also some in the evening. When properly managed this practice is alike beneficial to health and morals. "A very distinguished surgeon in the Indian army states that from long experience in tropical climates, with soldiers in barracks and in the field, he observed that 'a cup of warm coffee taken in the morning tended to prevent sickness.'" During the Crimean war it was found that when the soldiers obtained warm coffee, they sustained fatigue, and were comparatively healthy; but when they were in the trenches, and could not get warm tea or coffee, they were very subject to dysentery.

KENTUCKY AND THE UNION.—The Louisville Journal of Monday the 6th says: "Secession has recently received a staggering blow on Saturday, and Louisville has heretofore been imperishable honor. There were 8,112 votes cast for the Union delegate ticket, when the aggregate vote of the city at the Presidential election was only 7,453. The largest vote ever cast before in Louisville was in the gubernatorial race between Magoffin and Bell, the aggregate of which was 7,645. So that when Louisville gave 8,112 votes for the Union ticket, she exceeded by four hundred and sixty votes the largest aggregate vote ever before polled. Of the 7,453 votes for President, Breckinridge received but 860, and many of the latter doubtless voted the Crittenden-Guthrie ticket on Saturday, so that the secessionists proper do not constitute a corporal guard. If their ticket had not been so judiciously withdrawn, we do not believe it would have averaged more than two or three votes in any precinct of the city." This result appears to us with admiration, that the State generally has spoken with a voice equally unmistakable for the Union, the Constitution and the restoration of peace."

WHY THEY HESITATE.—The delay of the traitors is the best evidence of their want of confidence in their own strength. There is no unity of action among them. They fight with halbers around their necks, and are uncertain at the moment the noose may be tightened; and they had had any confidence in their strength or the justice of their cause, Washington city would have been in their possession three months since, or they might have laid the capital in ashes. But they hesitate, because they know that they are struggling against the might, the mind, and the great majority of the American people. The whole rebellion is only the struggle of some three hundred thousand slaveholders, who demand the recognition of their property in human flesh and blood as superior to that of all other property owned by nearly thirty millions of people.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.—The troops at the Relay House are actively engaged in strengthening their position by throwing up breastworks by the western track and digging trenches. Three hundred troops are stationed at the point where the trains stop. A rigid search for contraband articles is made at this point. They have captured a quantity of grain on the way to the mills up the Patuxent, and compelled its delivery at the Hoxley Mills, where they can turn it to account when it is ground, without inconvenience.

A gentleman who is well known arrived from Pensacola. He states that there are about eight thousand rebel troops outside of the fort, and that they are in a very bad condition. Their provisions are giving out, and the warm weather is making many ill, while the general impression so far as he could learn was, that an attack on the fort would soon be abandoned, on the pretence that the troops would be wanted further North.

The Washington Star says: "We have information by telegraph that the Harriet Lane reached Annapolis, bringing up a private schooner, captured just outside the Virginia Capes. When chased, the crew of the schooner with but two exceptions abandoned her in their boats. She had been disguised by the obliteration of her name from her stern, and by being painted yellow."

The Government has not only rendered the blockade of the coastwise Virginia ports efficient, but has also, in the month of Elizabeth river, by a vessel stationed about Hampton Roads, thus preventing steamers from passing from Richmond to Norfolk on the inland water route. The Virginians could hardly have anticipated being prevented carrying on their inland commerce.

The offers of troops from the West is astonishing. The government has already received proffers of service from two hundred and fifty thousand men, all west of the Alleghenies. This immense multitude is ready for instant and active service, and each regiment is made up of hardy troops. The men of the Northwest are marching in earnest for the support of the government.

Major Anderson thoroughly vindicates and justifies Capt. M'Gowan's conduct at the time of his unsuccessful effort to take the Star of the West into Charleston harbor, and says that it would have been impossible for him ever to have reached Fort Sumter with his ship under the fire of the batteries lining the entrance. He is likely to be restored to the revenue service.

The United States Sloop-of-war Cumberland was lying off Fort Monroe. The steamer Quaker City was blockading Cape Henry. It was reported that the Virginians were fitting out the steamers Yorktown and Jamestown for the purpose of running the blockade at the mouth of the James river, where the steamer Monticello is stationed.

Bradley Johnson a prominent secessionist has left Frederick with some eight others, and it is supposed their destination is Harper's Ferry. A considerable number have also left Baltimore in companies going across the country in the direction of Harper's Ferry. It is said that not less than three hundred have gone from that city.

Mr. Winans, the manufacturer of the celebrated steam gun, attempted to send it to Harper's Ferry, for the use of the Secessionists. Fortunately, however, his infamous scheme was thwarted, and the gun was captured by the Massachusetts volunteers, under the command of Colonel Jones, and is now at the Relay House.

As to batteries upon the Potomac, none have been erected up to this time, nor can they be, for the only points where works could be erected are constantly and thoroughly watched, and there are seven armed steamer plying on the river steadily, with orders to cut to pieces any body of men attempting to erect batteries.

Virginia was admitted as a member of the Confederate States Government on the 8th May, in secret session. Two of her members of Congress were sworn in, and participated in the discussion, and voted on questions which came before the body. No other business has been made public.

The Montgomery Confederation of the 8th says that over 300,000 applications have been made to the State Department for letters of marque and reprisal. Three hundred thousand! A rather formidable number. Who would have supposed that one-fourth of the Southern voters were pirates?

Secretary Chase has issued instructions to Surveyors of Customs at all the ports on the Ohio and upper Mississippi rivers, directing them to keep a most vigilant eye on all water craft and railroad lines, to prevent them from carrying provisions or munitions of war into the seceded States.

A large Union meeting was held at Kingwood, in Preston county, on the 4th inst., at which resolutions were adopted expressing unalterable opposition to the Ordinance of Secession, and favoring a division of the State to vote for members of Congress.

At a meeting of leading ship owners and commercial men of the State of Maine, a resolution was adopted tendering their services to the Government, and pledging their ability to furnish thirty steam vessels in sixty or ninety days.

A man named John Frost was arrested in Richmond, for declaring himself a Lincoln man, and saying that no army the South might muster could move Lincoln from Washington. He was placed in jail by the Mayor.

A great fright occurred at Richmond. The party indulged in a momentary expectation of an invasion by the Federal troops, and in consequence every man and boy capable of bearing arms were under orders.

Recruiting for the United States Army is actively progressing in Baltimore, and the National Hotel, which has been unoccupied for some time past, has been rented for quartering the recruits.

A special dispatch to the Alexandria Gazette, dated Montgomery, May 7th, confirms the reported secession of Arkansas and Tennessee. Salutes were fired there in honor of these events.

A special dispatch from Fredrick received states that the forest on the Maryland side of the Potomac near Harper's Ferry was fired last night and much valuable timber destroyed.

All the foreign ministers are anxiously making inquiries daily about the application of the blockade, but not one word of complaint has been uttered by one of them.

The steamer Peerless has been bought at Toronto, Canada, by the United States Government for the sum of \$40,000. The Peerless is an iron steamer of light draft.

A great deal of enthusiasm was manifested at Wheeling over the receipt of 2,000 stand of arms which reached there on the 8th.

The City Council of Baltimore made an appropriation to rebuild the bridge at Canton, on the Philadelphia Railroad.

THE TRIBUNE AND ITS ENEMIES.—The Democratic papers that would rather slander the New York Tribune than tell the truth have been publishing the following: "PERSONAL.—While thirteen appointments, foreign and domestic, have been given to editors and attaches of THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE, not a single man connected, as editor or correspondent, with that paper has volunteered to fight. The men who talk the loudest are not the men who fight."

The Tribune of the 6th inst., replies as follows: "The above is not only 'personal' but malicious, and not merely malicious, but grossly untrue. We know of but three persons who ever were 'editors and attaches' of this paper who have been appointed to any place whatever, and not one of these either sought or was commended for office on account of his past or present connection with THE TRIBUNE. And how the appointment to office of gentlemen whom we have employed and paid should have been an object to us to get rid of them, we might as well ourselves be obliged to the Government for taking them off our hands; but they have earned all we ever paid them, and they have been paid by us all they earned in our service, so that the account is exactly square. One of them was for a long time an editor of another journal, but never of this. Several persons left recently in our employment have left it to serve as soldiers in the war for the Union; but we claim no merit on their account any more than we hold over them, we have discharged our obligations to the Government for taking them off our hands; but they have earned all we ever paid them, and they have been paid by us all they earned in our service, so that the account is exactly square. One of them was for a long time an editor of another journal, but never of this. Several persons left recently in our employment have left it to serve as soldiers in the war for the Union; but we claim no merit on their account any more than we hold over them, we have discharged our obligations to the Government for taking them off our hands; but they have earned all we ever paid them, and they have been paid by us all they earned in our service, so that the account is exactly square. One of them was for a long time an editor of another journal, but never of this. 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